

People to People Newsletter

Greater Kansas City Chapter

August 2012

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Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
8/13/12	13-01 Flag Ceremony	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	9:00 a.m.
8/22/12	Know Your World: Tanzania	Eisenhower Auditorium Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
8/24/12	MOWW Ball	Muehlebach Hotel Kansas City MO	TBD
9/1/12	Partner Chapter Trip	Bogota, Colombia	
9/14/12	12-02 Fall Food Fair	Frontier Conference Center Ft. Leavenworth	6:00 p.m.
9/19/12	Know Your World: TBD	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
9/23/12	Afternoon at Deanna Rose	Deanna Rose Farmstead Overland Park KS	1:00 p.m.
9/24/12	International Hall of	Ft. Leavenworth	TBD

	Fame		
9/28/12	13-01 Fall Food Fair	Frontier Conference Center Ft. Leavenworth	6:00 p.m.
10/24/12	Know Your World: TBD	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.
10/25/12	International Hall of Fame	Ft. Leavenworth	TBD
11/14/12	Know Your World: TBD	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Ft. Leavenworth	3:30 p.m.

President's Letter

Dear Members,

I hope that everyone is having a wonderful summer! Many of our chapter's summer activities revolve around Fort Leavenworth's schedule, and soon, we will be looking toward the MOWW Ball on August 24 (organized by our own Pat Snyder) and the annual "Sunday afternoon at Deanna Rose Farmstead" on September 23.

Many chapter members are sponsors of international military students, and for those of us who sponsor in the June class, summer is a bittersweet time of saying goodbye to our previous officer and their family and welcoming the new officer. It is always difficult to see our international friends go home after a year of activities and building relationships, but it is also exciting to meet the incoming family and start anew. The military sponsorship committee is always looking for additional sponsors, so if you have suggestions for new recruits, please let us know.

Nine members are looking forward to the first trip from our chapter to our Partner Chapter in Bogotá, Colombia. You can read more about it in Gene (Jake) Jacobs' article in this newsletter. My husband, Chuck, and I are pleased to be part of this group and hope to reconnect with our two Colombian officers from several years ago.

Whatever you have going on this summer, with GKCPTP or not, I hope that you are enjoying yourselves, and I look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming activities.

Warm regards,

Karen Haber

Pearl Harbor Museum in Czech Republic

Dorinda Nicholson

Nestled in the Czech village of Loucka is a Pearl Harbor Museum, many thousands of miles away from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, whose history it honors. On July 5th, my husband Larry and I, along with 200 villagers, awaited the arrival of the Cardinal who would bless and dedicate the small military museum.

I heard the Cardinal's beautiful prayer through my translator. Then it was my turn for my interpreter to extend my thanks to the village for inviting me to the museum opening. Their response was to give me a huge bouquet of flowers along with a basket of handmade gifts. I was honored to be there, but still didn't understand why I had been invited and treated as such an honored guest. Only after I toured the museum and met the villagers did I understand why my host had invited me.

My first contact with my host, Josef Korenek, came two years ago with an email. He had read my Pearl Harbor Child book, a story of the attack from the eyes of a child, and he wanted to thank me for writing a child's war history. The correspondence continued with an eventual request to translate my book into Czech. This was followed by an invitation to the opening of his small Pearl Harbor museum where he had collected items related to the December 7th attack. We would be his guests for ten days and be provided a driver and translator. Of course, I said yes, but still didn't understand why he wanted me to come.

Josef had arranged for me to speak at the American Embassy in Prague. Using power point was helpful so the translator only needed to interpret the questions and answers afterwards. An interview following my talk is on You Tube

www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8VOQfzFXgw titled Dorinda Nicholson talking about the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Josef's driver met us in Prague and along with our translator drove us the four hours to where we would stay in a spa village close to Loucka. After the museum dedication, we were housed with the family of our translator, Dasha.

Even though Dasha was to be married in a few weeks, she devoted her time to Larry and me taking us to meet her family, and then, to meet those who had been children in Loucka during World War II.

Tears spilled as I heard stories of having to serve the Gestapo, of villages being burned, and then the story of the one lone survivor from her burned village. The front line was approaching Loucka. World War II had been raging in Europe two years. When Pearl Harbor was bombed, it brought the United States into the war. Now the Czech Republic had hope it could survive.

When I heard these stories, I told Dasha, our interpreter, the Czech people had been victorious. She said no, after Pearl Harbor, we got to survive.

As we said our goodbyes to Dasha and her family, it was tearful. The village had given us a farewell party. The only way I could think to thank them was to teach the hula.

There are now 20 new hula dancers in the Czech Republic.

Dorinda Nicholson
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Special Moments of International Military Student (IMS)

Sponsorship

Sonia and Howard Eichenwald

The sponsorship process begins when we first receive the proposed list of countries that are slated to attend the upcoming class. With which 6 countries would we want to become more familiar? Which of the six do we know least about and would therefore prove to be the best learning experience?

Soon after submitting our preferences, a member of the Military Committee calls and e-mails us the name and initial contact information for our IMS and/or family. The getting to know one another phase of sponsorship can now begin, as we send off that first e-mail of introduction. During the following week, we eagerly check e-mail awaiting that response and perhaps a short bio helping us form a mental picture of the IMS and family.

The excitement builds as we make arrangements with our sponsor counterparts from the Fort and from Leavenworth/Lansing to ensure a warm welcome upon his arrival, and that all will go smoothly with the transport from the airport to the Leavenworth area. Will we be able to spot him among the passengers making their way through the gate?

After a few weeks of getting acclimated, during which we've gotten together to get acquainted, it's time for the Icebreaker event at the fort. All the sponsors plan out the year ahead. Who will host the IMS for various holidays? With what travel plans can we provide advice and assistance? Are there special interests that may need to be addressed? Do we as a family have special traditions to share with our new friends? Will we attend one of the Food Fairs or the Holiday Dance?

Each time that we communicate with our IMS or spend time together, the more we learn about one another's culture, foods and daily life. Although many aspects often

vary, it is always a surprise, that no matter from where in the world the IMS comes, so many hopes and goals are the same as ours.

All too soon, just as we start to really feel like we have expanded our family; it is time to attend the Badge Ceremony. As we sit in the audience, basking in the pride of our IMS accomplishments, it is gratifying to know that we played a small part in enriching his experience while at CGSC. Hopefully we have helped to leave a positive impression of Americans, our country and our community

The relationship need not end here. We try to keep in touch through e-mails, Facebook, Skype, and track the family's growth and continued successes. Perhaps we can plan to visit their native country. What a great experience to be able to see a foreign country with a friend and not just as an ordinary tourist.

Sometimes we may also be able to reconnect when an IMS will be returning to the U.S. for another assignment or perhaps even to vacation. Such was the case for Howard and me this past June, as we traveled to Carlisle, PA, to attend the War College class graduation of our former IMS and family from Colombia, COL Pablo Bonilla. We reminisced and laughed and joked just as we had during the year that the family spent at CGSC.

From Carlisle we traveled to New York City, where we reconnected personally with LTC Alexandru Harea from Moldova, who currently has a position at the United Nations. During our dinner we made plans for August, during which time he and his wife Ina, daughter Simona, and new addition Damian will visit with us in our home for a few days. Our grandchildren remember Simona and are joining in the excitement of getting to show her fun venues in the Kansas City area.

For us, sponsorship provides endless opportunities to make lifelong friendships that span the globe. Each of the stages of sponsorship provides special moments that help solidify those friendships.

Colombia Trip Update

Partner Chapter Visit to Colombia Set

Jake Jacobs

The proposed visit to GKCPTP's Partner Chapter in Bogotá, Colombia, now has identified dates, attendees and an agenda.

Chapter President Karen Haber and her husband Chuck will lead a delegation consisting of Dak and Pat Burnett, Paul and Maggi Choplin, Jake and Linda Jacobs and Jim Malouff that will arrive in Bogotá September 1.

Tremendous efforts in preparation for the visit have been exerted by Claudia Farfán, wife of BG Rubén Alzate, who was a student at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 2005. Members who attended the chapter function focusing on Colombia earlier this year will recall that Claudia and her daughter Maria Paula, now a student at Park University, were present. Claudia made extensive contributions to the discussion.

BG Ricardo Bernal, CGSC Class of 2003, also has been a key facilitator in arranging for housing and transportation. Along with other former CGSC students, their family members and Bogotá chapter members, they will be on hand to greet the GKCPTP visitors upon their arrival September 1.

Sunday, September 2, will provide some recovery time after the trip; and Monday, September 3, will find the group doing some early sightseeing before an afternoon meeting with Bogotá Chapter President Claudia Marcela Chona, Partner Chapter liaison Michelle Moreno-Lee and other chapter members for a briefing about their chapter activities. GKCPTP members will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide information of their own.

The next morning will find the visitors participating with local chapter members in some of their activities in a local nursing home and with homeless Colombians. Afterward, Claudia Farfán is hosting a luncheon for everyone at her home.

Tourism will kick into full-throttle September 5 with a visit to the Gold Museum and then a four-hour trip to Villa de Leiva, a popular sight-seeing destination. The group will stay there for two days and enjoy visiting additional scenic villages on the return trip September 7.

Saturday will be highlighted by attendance at a concert by the Orquesta Filarmónica de Bogotá under the baton of guest conductor Andrés Franco, associate conductor of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and native of Medellin, Colombia. Franco formerly was music director for The Philharmonia of Greater Kansas City which performed for GKCPTP on more than one occasion.

The weekend also will feature a city tour, a visit to the Salt Cathedral and the opportunity for social time with personal friends of GKCPTP members.

The Partner Chapter concept was conceived and originally developed by GKCPTP, and the association of GKCPTP with the Bogotá Chapter, which features one of People to People International's oldest and most established chapters and one of the very newest, is the first such venture and should serve as a model for such relationships all over the PTPI world in the future.

GKCPTP International Student Hosting Program – Cultural Friendship and Mentorship Opportunity

Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic

The vision of Greater Kansas City People to People is to be recognized as a leading citizen diplomacy force that promotes understanding, goodwill, and friendship among the citizens of Greater Kansas City, the United States, and people of other countries and diverse cultures.

Our mission, as citizen ambassadors, is to promote international understanding and friendship through educational, humanitarian, and cultural activities involving a broad range of direct contacts, exchange of ideas and experiences among the people of Greater Kansas City and peoples of different countries and diverse cultures that will help to build an enduring world peace.

A fairly new additional cultural opportunity has been provided to all GKCPTP chapter members and their friends in the community. You can now welcome international college students to your homes for dinners, social events and holidays throughout a year. Students do not live with you in your home, but only share fun and exciting activities on several occasions throughout a semester or an academic year (August through May). You can also take on a role of a mentor or an advisor and help student with studies and adjusting to the American culture and lifestyle.

The students come from different parts of the world and backgrounds and are either exchange students on short stay in America, long term undergraduate or graduate and doctorate students here in the Metro Kansas City Area.

We have been able to join our efforts with the University of Missouri Kansas City on bringing together students interested to learn more about the American culture and local hosts willing to learn more about students' home countries and their experiences. There will be a lot of exciting questions you would answer about American lifestyle, ranging from "why do people drink green beer to commemorate a St Patrick's saint" to trying to understand "what Easter has to do with bunnies". On the other hand you would be surprised to find out various facts about students' home countries, such as shocking amounts of languages or dialects would be prominent in one country, to how it may never snow in certain parts of the world at all.

The International Student Hosting Program is an extraordinary opportunity for cultural exchange at your own terms with very minimum commitment, since students do not physically reside with you at your house for the entire year. You will only need to meet with a student 4-7 times a year for lunch or family gathering or

another social activity such as a sports events or a trip to the museum. Typically, the whole family, including kids, benefits from the cultural exchange and enjoys the interaction with a young country's "ambassador".

The GKCPTP members, Maggi and Paul Choplin, share the variety of activities they were able to carry out with their student Stella Yee from Malaysia that they sponsored this past year and their young nieces. "We've enjoyed many outings with Stella and find her delightful. Stella joined us when our nieces were visiting, and we toured the Hallmark Visitors Center, Money Museum, World War I Museum including the top of the Liberty Memorial." Museums and places of interest are always a good way to introduce Kansas City and the American lifestyle to the students. You can always do some school-related activities that a student would invite you to as well.

A lot of the International Students may feel homesick, lonely, and miss the structure and comfort of home while several time-zones away from home and family. At times they have nowhere to go for holidays, or simply miss a homemade meal once in a while. It is a unique chance to provide comfort and guidance to the students during the academic year, and build long-lasting relationships for many years to come.

Inviting international students for holidays is probably the best way to let them feel at home and experience the American lifestyle firsthand, not only from someone else's stories or films. Dorinda Nicholson, GKCPT Board member and first-year International Student Host described a wonderful Halloween celebration as a unique experience for their hosted student. "Trick or Treat on Halloween night was our fun outing with Jing Zhou, a doctoral student in composition at UMKC Conservatory School of Music. Although she is 30 years old, she is pretty and delicate and fit right in with our grand-daughters as they visited each house on the block." The whole family can share the cultural experience and learn more about each other's culture.

With the new academic year starting this coming August, this is a perfect time to fill out a HOST APPLICATION that you can find on our website at www.gkcptp.org under "Programs/International Student Host Program Host Application" section. Feel free to inquire with Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic at ishp@gkcptp.org if you have any questions, suggestions or reservations about the program, or if you would like an application form be mailed to you.

We will have many students of all backgrounds waiting for their hosting experience starting this August! Feel free to share this wonderful student hosting opportunity with other friends and family members who might be interested to share the Greater Kansas City People to People's vision of citizen diplomacy! Let's change the world- with one friendship at a time!

Membership Report Second Quarter

Betty Olberding

New Members are:	Recruited by:
Peter and Michelle deSilva	IMSD
Aaron and Peggy Lukken	IMSD
Dan and Amy Brigg	Jim Malouff
Jack and Joan Elwood	Carol Douglass
Alan and Sandra Burgers	Irina Kobzeva-Pavlovic
John and Grace Akinwale	PTPI
Allan and Kristine Jones	IMSD
Tom and Kathy Nanney	IMSD
James and Marti Wilson	Rejoined
Bob and Karen Brush	Errett Schmid
Beth Coughlin and family	PTPI
Ann Musser and family	PTPI

Welcome to our organization! It's truly wonderful to have these new members join through referrals from current members. To reach our membership goal by year's end, we need to add an additional 16 new members! Can you recommend a friend? The Deanna Rose Homestead will be the site of our event with all of the international officers and their families, on Sunday, September 23. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends to join us, as we host our important visitors.

For additional information please contact me at: betty_olberding@yahoo.com, or telephone: 913-772-8684.

A Glimpse of the "American Orientation" at Ft. Leavenworth

Jane Kohl-Waggoner

How do I even begin to describe a room full of approximately 70 women from all over the world talking in (almost) every conceivable language – all at the same time!

On Monday, July 9, I was asked to drive our new international wife to her first American Orientation class. That's when it dawned on me how many geographical bachelors Tom and I have sponsored since we began this journey in 2005. I quickly realized that I knew NOTHING about this part of the IMS program.

I have to give the hardworking ladies of Operation International in Leavenworth a lot of credit and applause for the way they organize the 8 days of orienting these brave wives to their new life for the next year in the USA. And for the way they make these women feel incredibly welcome – including our American sense of humor!

After all of the children were settled in their respective, age-appropriate groups, the group settled down with their copy of the International Ladies' Handbook. If any of you sponsors have wondered how your international families learn so quickly where to turn for help, it's all here in this handbook; from who to contact for the English as a Second Language programs to places where they can have a child's birthday party to tipping Commissary baggers (who do not receive hourly pay, only tips).

I could go on for awhile but my short message to all sponsors – especially new ones – is to volunteer to accompany your incoming international wife (assuming she arrives in time) to at least the first day of this American Orientation Course. You will meet many other interesting people and have a great opportunity to bond with your new friend for the next year!

Chapter Programs Update

Jane Kohl Waggoner

By the time all of you receive and read this newsletter, some of you will have gathered at the Holy-Field Winery in Basehor, KS and enjoyed their last Summer Time Music happy hour with the Nace Brothers. I hope you had a great time tasting their wines and making new friends!

Next up on the calendar is what we fondly refer to as “the Deanna Rose event.” For those of you who do not sponsor international officers up at Ft. Leavenworth, this is an annual family occasion resembling a huge American picnic. This year's event will be held on Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012. The Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead was established in 1978 and has expanded quite a bit since then. To see what currently is going on out there, please visit their website: www.opkansas.org. Not only do our international families and our U.S. sponsor families have a great time together, the Deanna Rose employees and volunteers also enjoy having all of us there. As a matter of fact, the employees and volunteers ask to work the day of our event because they so look forward to meeting and talking to so many people from all over the world. I think that's a huge compliment! So, even if you are not currently a sponsor of an IMS, I would encourage you to attend Deanna Rose with your own

family. Once you see how much fun it is to sponsor one of these wonderful families, I'm sure you will want to sponsor also.

Between the Holy-Field Winery happy hour and the Deanna Rose event, there will not be any programs except for the planned trip to visit our Partner Chapter in Bogotá, Colombia. A nice-size group of our members will be traveling there in early September. For additional information on this trip, please contact Gene Jacobs at [gjacob11@kc.rr.com](mailto:gjacobs11@kc.rr.com). I'm sure there is still room for more!

And in conclusion, if any of you have ideas for chapter programs that you would like to see happen, please never hesitate to contact me at JKID96@msn.com.

See you soon!